

# **MISSISSIPPI BOARD OF PHARMACY**

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## **MAY 2011 NEWSLETTER**

### **AVAILABILITY OF NEWSLETTERS:**

Please post or make this newsletter available to all pharmacy employees. It will also be available at the Board of Pharmacy website, [www.mbp.state.ms.us](http://www.mbp.state.ms.us).

### **SANCTIONED PRACTITIONERS**

For sanctioned medical practitioner information, please see the Mississippi Board of Medical Licensure website at [www.msbl.state.ms.us/boardactionreportyrrequest.htm](http://www.msbl.state.ms.us/boardactionreportyrrequest.htm).

### **ANNUAL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE INVENTORY:**

As required by regulation, every pharmacy in Mississippi that maintains and dispenses controlled substances shall conduct an annual controlled substance inventory between May 1 and May 15, or at some other time to conform with DEA regulations. (Please include prescription items containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine as they are now included in Schedule III) You may refer to the regulations or previous newsletters for further information. Effective July 1, 2011, any medication containing carisoprodol (Soma) and tramadol (Ultram) will be placed in Schedule IV, and any medication containing butalbital will be placed in Schedule III in the State of Mississippi. You may include them with your May inventory or count these products on July 1 and include them with your May inventory.

### **CORRESPONDING RESPONSIBILITY OF PHARMACISTS:**

The office of the Board receives multiple calls concerning the topic of the Pharmacist's corresponding responsibility along with the prescriber when dispensing controlled substance prescriptions. Questions received by the Office usually concern prescriptions issued by out of state prescribers. Information concerning corresponding responsibility may be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Chapter II, part 1306.04. The decision to fill or refill a prescription is a decision that every pharmacist will have to make on an individual, case-by-case basis. Sometimes it is not an easy decision to make and this is where professional judgment comes into play. Use your professional judgment for the benefit of yourself and your patients. The fact that you have a piece of paper with a controlled substance on it and you verify its authenticity does not necessarily mean it is a valid prescription. Consider geographics when making your decision. Why would a patient who resides in Louisiana, be attempting to fill a prescription in Mississippi which was issued by a prescriber in Texas??

### **NEW PHARMACY PRACTICE REGULATIONS:**

A completely revised version of the Mississippi Pharmacy Practice Regulations will be placed on our website by May 1, 2011. Copies of these regulations will be mailed to each permitted facility holding Community, Specialty Community, or Institutional Pharmacy Permits and to each currently licensed Pharmacist. Additional copies are available from the Board office for \$25.00. Many changes have been made to the Regulations and a summary of the changes will be included with the new revision. The regulations are effective January 31, 2011.

## **NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

Vacancies on the Board of Pharmacy have existed since July 1, 2010, for the member positions of Institutional At Large and old Congressional District 1. Governor Haley Barbour has appointed Pharmacist Teresa McDaniel of Hattiesburg to fill the position of Institutional at Large and Pharmacist Todd Sandroni of Tupelo to fill the Congressional District 1 position. Ms. McDaniel's term will expire June 30, 2015, and Mr. Sandroni's term will expire June 30, 2014. We welcome Ms. McDaniel and Mr. Sandroni to the Board and look forward to working with them.

## **PHARMACISTS-IN-CHARGE (PIC):**

As Pharmacist-In-Charge (PIC) of a facility, you are responsible for all the activities that are subject to regulation by the Board. You should have assistance from your support staff and other employee pharmacists. It is your responsibility to educate and train your technicians and other support staff. Pharmacists should be following Board of Pharmacy regulations, especially when it comes to the security of controlled substances and the verification by a pharmacist of every prescription/order that leaves the pharmacy. **EVERY ONE-EVERY TIME- EVERY DAY.**

Your support staff should get the necessary information for the pharmacist to conduct a Prospective Drug Utilization review. Do not assume the patient is only taking the prescription medications on their profile. Ask about any other medications including OTC medications. Assure that the pharmacist is seeing rejections from third party payors regarding overuse, underuse, potential drug interactions. These are professional judgment decisions that you cannot delegate to non-pharmacists. If you are not getting that information, or are not seeing those rejections, serious training or re-training is in order. Your clerks should ask patients if they would like to speak with the pharmacist about their medications, rather than just "sign here?" Patient consultation is a must, not an option. The offer to counsel must be made. Find a way, "I'm too busy", is not an excuse. Pay attention to details. Compare your controlled substance purchases to your dispensings over a period of time. This simple procedure may make you aware of missing controlled substances.

## **RELIEF PHARMACISTS:**

Relief pharmacists serve a vital role in our profession. Please read the above topic. They also have the responsibility of following Board of Pharmacy regulations and state and federal laws concerning controlled substances. Even though you are only in the facility for a limited time, you still must support the pharmacist-in-charge by following the rules and regulations and properly supervising the support staff. Utilize your professional judgment and require the support staff to follow your directions when you are present. Bring shortfalls and/or procedural issues to the attention of the PIC.

## **YOU AND THE MISSISSIPPI PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM**

The reporting of dispensed controlled substances, and specified non-controlled substances, in, or into, the State of Mississippi became effective July 1, 2008 with the passage of Mississippi Senate Bill 2713, in compliance with federal regulations promulgated under the authority of the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act of 2005 and in compliance with federal HIPAA law.

The Mississippi Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) collects information once every seven days on all controlled substances and specified non-controlled substances dispensed in, or into, the state of Mississippi by pharmacies, physicians, and veterinarians. **Reporting to the Prescription Monitoring Program is mandatory.** Failure to report may result in action by the Board and/or severe monetary penalties. Currently the PMP only has a fraction of eligible users accessing the system for information. If you are not using the PMP we encourage you to consider the benefits it can offer to you and your patient. The sign up process to obtain information on a new or active patient is simple. Go to [www.mbp.state.ms.us](http://www.mbp.state.ms.us), follow the bottom left link to "Prescription Monitoring" and download and follow the directions for the "Report Retrieval Registration Kit".

The philosophy, attitude, and actions of the PMP are proactive in safeguarding public health and safety while supporting the legitimate use of controlled substance prescription medications. Questions should be directed to [dbrown@mbp.state.ms.us](mailto:dbrown@mbp.state.ms.us).